

Mr. Speaker, the choice comes down to this: We either punish poor people who play by the rules, as the Republican bill would do, or we invest in them so that they can get off welfare permanently.

CURRENT WELFARE SYSTEM HAS NEVER WORKED

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, in the last few days I have seen an uproar from the friends on the left regarding the restructuring of the welfare system. I hear phrases like "lacking compassion," "mean spirited," "cruelty to children." I am here to tell you that changing a system that does not work has nothing to do with lacking compassion.

What is lacking is maintaining a welfare system that has never worked and has only increased dependence to ensure the survival of a political party, lacking in responsibility, and, yes, lacking in compassion.

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Yes, you know, in the last 30 years the Democratically controlled Congress has spent over \$5 trillion on welfare. In that same 30 years AFDC recipients have more than doubled, the number of single parents has tripled, food stamp recipients have quintupled, while these same Democrats stand up and yell about compassion.

Today I join my fellow Americans and say we have seen the kind of work compassion you have offered these last 30 years. Give people back their dignity, give them hope, not a handout.

Pass the Republican welfare bill.

THE SAFETY NET

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, the 104th Congress is not debating the fundamental restructuring of the failed welfare system. We have started one of the most important debates for the next generation. As a former elementary school teacher, I know and realize how important it is for the Congress to end the cycle of dependency and replace it with the dignity of work.

Mr. Speaker, we are ending a welfare system that is not compassionate and replacing it with hope and opportunity. We are ending a failed system and encouraging personal responsibility. These are ambitious goals yet they are achievable goals.

While we are making these changes to the welfare system, we also have to recognize that we will hit some rough spots. That is why our bill retains a Federal safety net called food stamps. This safety net insures that no American will go hungry while we change the system to bring opportunity and dignity. While we retain a safety net

we also require personal responsibility in the form of work.

I urge all to call President Clinton, 202-456-1414, and ask him why he is not joining us to change it.

GOODBYE MILK, HELLO KOOL-AID

(Mr. POMEROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, while both parties support welfare reform, there is something terribly unseemly about the debate under way in the House. Well-fed speaker after well-fed speaker has gotten up and argued passionately for the Republican proposal which makes deep cuts in the nutritional program helping infants at home, toddlers in day care and kids in school.

My abundantly nourished Republican friends maintain they are not cutting anything. But the numbers tell quite a different story. The Congressional Budget Office, which they control, says more than \$22 billion will be removed from the nutritional spending. The only way you get this much money from nutrition programs is by sharply reducing the quality and nutritional value of these programs which help these kids who need them so badly. For kids all across the country, it is goodbye milk, hello Kool-Aid. I wonder how my comfortable, well-fed colleagues would like a diet like that for themselves?

A DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I too want to address the debate that is going on on the issue of welfare change. Only my position on this debate is that I am very disappointed in it. I am very disappointed in this Congress. This is the most important issue that we are going to debate in this whole entire 104th Congress. It is going to affect the lives of millions of people, even probably—or hopefully—will change the course of lives of millions of people.

But the debate has turned away from that aspect. The debate has turned to one of name-calling, finger-pointing, and distortion of the truth, all in an attempt to divide people of this country, to divide people by class, divide people by race, and divide people by nationality.

Mr. Speaker, that is wrong. And I can assure you that there is not one Member of this body who wants to do harm to any one child in this Nation. I hope the debate turns better.

H.R. 4 CUTS CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand H.R. 4, the Republican so-called welfare reform package. I urge everyone to read this, to read this and weep. Because in the attempt to improve the welfare system, which we all agree needs to be reformed, our Republican colleagues have cut—yes, cut—the children's nutrition programs that have been an entitlement for America's poor and hungry children for over 50 years.

Our colleagues on the Republican side will wave a CRS report that says they do not cut the School Lunch Program, but they are avoiding the issue. Because what we are talking about is the children's nutrition program, which includes school lunch, which includes the afternoon program and summer programs for children whose parents work and who need child care, something we are trying to encourage: work.

And if you just want to talk about school lunch, let's talk about that. The funds that this bill, H.R. 4, puts in here gives the Governors the authority to spend only 80 percent of the money. They do not have to spend 100 percent. They remove the entitlement; they remove the nutritional standards. Poor children lose a lot in this bill, which rewards the rich, cheats the children, and is weak on work.

I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, last night, during rollcall vote Nos. 257 and 258 on H.R. 4, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on H.R. 257 and "no" on H.R. 258.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKKEY). Pursuant to House Resolution 119, and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill H.R. 4.

□ 1055

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending, and reduce welfare dependence, with Mr. LINDER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, March 22, 1995, amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 104-85, offered